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classifying skins. Microscopic preparations of embryos, anatomical preparations of young and adult, and carefully made skeletons of both would have to be a part of each collector's study. Do not be afraid that this would be tedious work. Those of you who have never studied under such a system can have no conception of the vastly greater interest there is in the collection of facts that mean something—that call out our powers of analysis and synthesis—than in collecting postage stamps—I beg pardon, I mean eggs. Of microscopy I cannot speak from experience, though I know its extreme value. Obviously the minute modifications of tissue and organ—particularly in the embryo—cannot be studied without the aid of a powerful glass. Such a glass I have never been able to afford; neither have I had the special training required for the successful use of one. Possibly some member of the Club has a high power microscope and knows how to use it. If so, he is the one to take up this branch, doing as thorough work as may be in the group he selects as his special study, supplementing this, if he has the time and opportunity, by doing microscopical work for his brother investigators. Knowing little of the technique of microscopy I am not certain this plan could be successfully carried out, but I believe much material for examination may be preserved for some time, awaiting a chance for placing it under the glass.

As to the fascination of the study of anatomy—the bones, muscles, nerves, vessels, etc.—the organs and their functions—the modifications and adaptations so readily traced after one has learned enough of the general plan to know where to look and what to look for—the fascination of all this I *do* know. I assure you there can be no keener satisfaction to the student of of nature than this close analysis—unless, indeed, he be totally devoid of the analytical habit of mind; in which case he has no place in the army of workers in this field. He had better confine his energies to what will bring some measure of success in spite of loose thinking—if such a thing be possible. For the student of Nature's book, how humble soever may be his role, analysis is the only sure foundation for any superstructure he may attempt to build thereon.

Parenthetically I would say I hope you do not think I myself am so devoid of the analytical faculty as to overlook the fact that, in urging upon you a consideration of the rights of the birds, I am using a two-edged weapon, with which I must infallibly cut my own fingers. You can fairly come back at me, I know, with a "*tu quoque*." If so arraigned I can only say with the poor devil who steals a loaf of bread when starving: "My lords and gentlemen, I am guilty. I throw myself on your mercy. I look for your clem-

ency because—I was hungry." That is my excuse, gentlemen, for the killing, and the encouragement in others of the killing, of my cousins. By this foul wrong I am guilty of, I get the means of being useful to others; those others being of greater value, I believe, in the furtherance of the apparent purpose of evolution—the attainment of a higher, a more complete life. This is my excuse. Can you offer one as good?

But this is a minor matter. My guilt or innocence affects not at all the argument. The avowed object of the C. O. C. is the increase of our knowledge of birds. My contention is that we should try to determine the best means of attaining this object, *and make use of such means*.

ROTH REYNOLDS.

Los Angeles, Cal.

### Book Reviews

**BIRD HOMES.** The Nests, Eggs and Breeding Habits of the Land Birds Breeding in the Eastern United States; With Hints on the Rearing and Photographing of Young Birds. By A. Radclyffe Dugmore. Illustrated with photographs from nature by the author. Pages xvi—183. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. \$2 net.

This volume is a combination work of the bird photographer and a key to the land birds of Eastern North America, the latter feature largely predominating. Typographically considered the volume is an artistic success, and the text is well put together, although one can but feel that the ever-interesting subject of bird photography and of "bird homes" too soon gives way to the more or less formal "key" to nests and eggs. While the latter branch of oology has been widely treated by authors for years past, essays on bird photography still possess unusual interest to bird students.

Mr. Dugmore prefaces his work with a strikingly sensible and forcible introduction, in which he appeals to the young bird student to dismiss the idea of a mere egg collection for the more profitable field of research which lies in the study of the birds' habits. He cites his experience with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest containing two eggs which he allowed to hatch. In observing the young the author gained the interesting fact that the feathers do not break through the envelopes gradually as with most birds, but that they remain sheathed until the day before the young leave the nest. Then in twenty-four hours *every* envelope bursts and the bird is completely feathered! Such observations are what the student of to-day should seek, and the author is to be commended for pointing out this line of work to his readers.

Following the introduction are chapters on Birds' Nests and Eggs; Egg Collecting and its Object; Photographing Nests and Young Birds; Hints on the Rearing and Keeping of Birds, and finally the explanatory notes which refer to the "key." The chapter on the care of captive birds contains much of interest and value to lovers of pet birds.

After a list of the approximate dates at which the various birds may be found nesting, the "key" begins, covering 140 pages of the work. The birds have been divided into nine chapters, grouped according to the nature of the nesting site; e. g. Open Nests on the Ground, etc.; Nests in Holes in Trees, Stumps or Logs; Semi-pensile, Pensile or Hanging Nests, etc. A short description of the male and female of each species is given, followed by notes on the bird's habits, nest and eggs.

Fifty-two photographic plates by the author are distributed through the text, illustrating nests and eggs *in situ*, as well as a number of wild birds from life. Too much praise cannot be accorded some of Mr. Dugmore's results with the camera, the half-tones in general being of a high order. Sixteen full-page colored plates of nests and eggs are also embodied in the work, the result of the 3-color photographic process. It is to be regretted that these were permitted to enter the volume, for they suffer by comparison with the excellent half-tones and are possessed of the fault common to most such plates—inaccuracy and too intense coloration.

However *Bird Homes* is a praiseworthy volume, well calculated to interest and set aright the ever-increasing army of new bird students, to whom the work is doubtless intended to primarily appeal.—C. B.

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. By John Van Denburgh. (Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc. Vol. XXXVIII, pp 157-180).

This is a list prepared by Mr. Van Denburgh from fourteen years' observation in Santa Clara county, Cal., and 110 species and sub-species are recorded, some being merely mentioned as occurring, while others are followed by interesting and quite copious notes. Mr. Van Denburgh's observations are confined to Los Gatos and Palo Alto, points along the western range bordering the county, and the lack of notes from other diversified portions of the county necessarily affects the completeness of the list, which point, however, is already suggested by the author. The list forms an excellent basis for a thorough county list, to which other observers may add from time to time, and Mr. Van Denburgh deserves credit for recording the results of his observations.—C. B.

### Official Minutes of Southern Division.

The regular meeting of the Division was held July 28 at the studio of Roth Reynolds, 341½ South Spring Street, Los Angeles. In the absence of Mr. McCormick, Mr. Grinnell was elected president pro tem. The names of Miss Mollie Bryan of Orange and Harry Putnam of Pasadena were proposed for active membership. The museum problem was set aside until the next meeting. Mr. Swarth exhibited six skins of the American Titlark and one skin of the Black-bellied Plover in full spring plumage. Mr. Wicks exhibited a photograph of the nest and eggs of the Dusky Poorwill, taken this season. The following papers were read: "Facts and the Use We Make of Them," by Roth Reynolds; "The American Titlark in Spring Plumage in Los Angeles Co., Cal.," by H. S. Swarth; "Nesting of the Rivoli Hummingbird," by O. W. Howard. After a lengthy discussion the meeting adjourned.

AUGUST.

The regular meeting was held Aug. 30, at the residence of Joseph Grinnell in Pasadena. Twelve members were present, with Dr. Fordyce Grinnell as a visitor. Miss Mollie Bryan of Orange and Harry Putnam of Pasadena were elected to active membership. Roy Pendleton of Los Angeles, was proposed for membership. The question of establishing a public museum was referred to, and after considerable discussion was postponed indefinitely. Upon motion all funds remaining in the Division treasury were ordered remitted to the Northern Division for publication purposes. A paper prepared by Dr. F. M. Palmer on Nuttall's Poor-will, was read. After enjoyable refreshments the members inspected Mr. Grinnell's magnificent collection of birds. The Division then adjourned to meet in Los Angeles Sept. 27.

HOWARD ROBERTSON,  
Sec'y. Southern Division.

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The regular meeting of the Northern Division was postponed until September 15th, and the minutes will appear in the next issue of the CONDOR. The meeting will be held at the home of C. Barlow, in Santa Clara.

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H. R. Painton of College Park, formerly principal of the Almaden School, has accepted the principalship of the public school at Pescadero, on the ocean shore—a region highly interesting to the ornithologist.

Mr. Chas. R. Keyes, one of the old "tried and true" ornithologists of Iowa, has located in California and is filling the chair of instructor in German in the University of California. Mr. Keyes' advent into Californian fields will be warmly welcomed by members of the Cooper Club and others.